



The duo Sin Ropas performs at John Henry's on Saturday.

Quality Acts

Excellent offerings at John Henry's and Luna.

One lucky Luna audience will be treated to a rare performance by German jazz guitarist **Christian Eckert** Thursday, May 22. Eckert will perform along with pianist **Gary Versace** and Seattle's **Matt Jorgenson** on drums in an intimate performance at Eugene's downtown jazz club. The Christian Eckert Trio engages audiences the world over with improvisational jazz and lyrical storytelling. The musicians first lay down a foundation of traditional jazz, then infuse it with a keen understanding of melody and harmony. Eckert's warm improvisations create a romantic mood, and a small club like Luna is the perfect place to get the full experience.

A former UO associate professor of jazz studies, Versace is known to the local community as a fearlessly creative pianist. He has performed with a host of musicians, including saxophonist Tim Ries, the Dave Scott Quintet and the Jay Azzolina trio, vocalist Kendra Shank and bassists David Friesen and Glen Moore. Versace performed with Portland jazz pianist Marian McPartland in a two-piano recital, and also appeared as a guest on McPartland's National Public Radio program "Piano Jazz." Versace is still an active teacher, giving clinics at colleges and high schools across the nation, including Eastman and Berkeley School of Music.

Jorgenson haunts the jazz districts in Seattle and New York, having studied under notable New York masters Joe Chambers, Kenny Washington, Reggie Workman and Cecil McBee. He has his own projects, the groups +451 and RadioAction. Known as a creative, expressive drummer, Jorgenson's 2002 release, *Quiet Silence*, is described by *Earshot Jazz Magazine* as containing "some of the freshest and most honest playing on any jazz CD this year." All three of these inventive musicians have studied at Manhattan's prestigious New School. This performance will surely be one worth seeing.

The duo known as **Sin Ropas** will be performing at John Henry's Saturday, May

24th. Tim Hurley and Danni Iosello are touring the country throughout spring and summer in support of their newest release, *Trickboxes on the Pony Line*. Hurley, known for his work with both Red Red Meat and Califone, provides multiple instrument tracks on the CD: vocals, guitars, piano, sampler, concertina, clarinet, bass and "assorted manipulations." Hurley's partner in creativity, Iosello, has a list of instruments equally lengthy: drums, percussion, vocals, piano, organ, harmonium, korg, and glockenspiel. The effect of all of this is a tweaked version of guitar-driven pop, like a Dinosaur Jr. on narcotics, complete with auditory and visual hallucinations.

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Hurley's voice is tinged with regret, hovering over melodies unwinding slowly but purposefully. The layers of instrumentation take on added depth as melodies swirl and disappear, emerge on another instrument, then sink again.

Hurley and Iosello began their career with the release of 2000's *Three Cherries* on Perishable Records, the same label that oversaw the release of Red Red Meat's first eponymous CD, back in 1992.

Trickboxes sees the pair switching over to the label Sad Robot. Hurley and Iosello received a Fulbright grant and spent a year in Germany on the Baltic coast, where they recorded most of *Trickboxes'* tracks. Additional tracks were recorded in Chicago, the band's home base.

Local faves **Mood Area 52** and **Heavenly Oceans** will also perform. **EW**

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